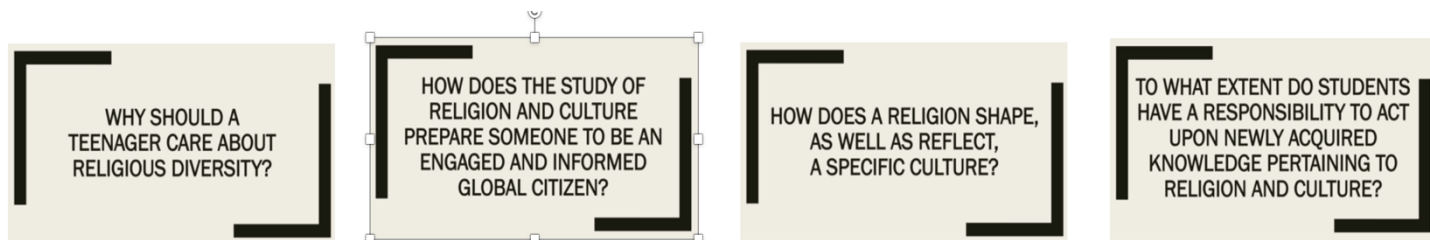


World Religions Dual Credit



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Office hours: Please make an appointment any time! E-mail me or use this link! https://calendly.com/radcliff/zoommeeting	Office phone: 847-718-5861

COURSE DESCRIPTION & APPROACH:

This world religion elective course introduces students to the Cultural Studies Method put forth by Dr. Diane Moore of Harvard Divinity School. Students will learn how to recognize and analyze religious influences across time and place through a combination of lecture, discussion, reading and writing. The class will utilize the Cultural Studies Method to explore case studies related to themes such as gender, conflict and peace, climate change, the arts, and the “interpreted other.” The expectation is not to be an expert after this course, but to be more aware of the kinds of issues at stake regarding the study of religion and society.

Our approach to learning about religion is one that recognizes and values the diversity of beliefs and convictions within and among religions and worldviews. In this way, we will not be promoting or privileging one interpretation or worldview over another, or asking which interpretation or worldview is “right” or “true.” *Instead, we’ll be exploring what gives rise to diverse interpretations, and why some worldviews and interpretations gain more social prominence and credibility in certain contexts over others.* In short, our explorations will be focused on seeking to better understand diverse perspectives rather than debating which ones are “credible.”

As your teacher, I will try my best to provide you everything you need to be successful. Actively engage in this course because it is the best way you will learn. I encourage you to take every opportunity to participate in discussion, work with one another, and complete practice sets. I trust that all class interactions will be respectful and motivated by curiosity and a sincere interest in learning from one another.

COURSE TEXTBOOK:

Scriptures of the World's Religions by Fieser and Powers (6th Edition)

CLASS OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

Students will write a variety of informative, analytical, and evaluative essays. These assignments will cultivate essential writing skills and incorporate brainstorming, conferencing, and editing. By the end of the semester, students will have written a minimum of twenty-five pages outlined by the following:

- Reflection quizzes consist of reflecting on the learning from the past week. They can be redone for extra credit.
- One to two pages writing assessments of critical inquiry and reflection based on key understanding that the religion is culturally embedded, has internal diversity, and changes over time. This is submitted through Google Drive.
- Unit Case Study Project (two to three-page report and oral presentation) requiring research and writing over a six-week period. This project is of your choosing with teacher approval. This is submitted through Google Drive.

With COVID-19 disrupting the traditional academic year, the listed dates are subject to change.

World Religion 1 st Semester		World Religion 2 nd Semester	
Aug 15 – Aug 29	Cultural Studies & Religion in America	Jan 8 – Jan 23	Cultural Studies Review
Sept 3 – Oct 2	Hinduism	Jan 23 – Feb 12	Judaism
Oct 2 – Nov 1	Buddhism	Feb 12 – Mar 13	Christianity
Nov 1 – Nov 21	Sikhism	Mar 19 – Apr 28	Islam
Nov 21 – Dec 16	“Cults”	Apr 28 – May 6	Non-Belief
Dec 3 – Dec 18	Final Project	Mar 13 – May 22	Final Project and Portfolio

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Since class is based on your engagement with the readings, it is expected that you will be prepared to participate in discussion. You are encouraged to advocate for yourself by communicating with me before class should an extenuating circumstance arise that prevents you from actively engaging in class discussion. Please let me know so that I can shape class discussion accordingly and also refrain from embarrassing you unnecessarily by having you be responsible for material that you may not know.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Grading Scale:

A	90% and above
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

Grade Distribution:

35% Writing Assessments & Unit Case Studies

30% Reflection Quizzes; Standards

15% Final Project

20% Communication and Engagement (Small Assignments)

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Controversial issues in the classroom have been analyzed through District 214's policy on "Teaching About Controversial Issues" as designated in the Academic Handbook. There is a seven-part guideline to determine the value of discussing, learning, or teaching about debatable current events. The following controversial topics may be discussed in class:

- Colonialism/Imperialism and effects on native groups
- Refugees or Internally Displaced People
- Genocide (Hotel Rwanda movie, Rohingya)
- Stateless Nations (Catalonia, Palestine, Kurdish Nation, etc.)
- War and Terrorism